

a very good or a very weak woman. An
 indifferency for
 power and rule seemed so extraordinary a
 thing, that it was
 thought a certain character of an excess of
 goodness or
 simplicity/ ¹

^ Mary arrived at Whitehall on February 12.
 She thus
 describes her feelings on her return :

When I saw England, my native country,
 which long
 absence had made me a stranger to, I felt a
 secret joy,
 which doubtless proceeded from a naturall
 simpathy, but
 that was soon checked with the consideration
 of my fathers
 misfortunes which came immediatly into my
 mind. The
 joy of seeing the Prince again, strove against
 that melan-
 colly, and the thoughts that I should my
 husband see
 owned as the deliverer of my country, made
 me vain ; but
 alas, poor mortal! thought I then, from who
 has he de-
 liverd it but from thy father. ... I had a joy
 greater then
 can be expresd to come to the Prince, but I
 found him in
 a very ill condition as to his health, he had a
 violent cough
 upon him and was grown extreamly lean. He
 could not
 restrain as soon as we were alone we both
 shed tears of joy
 to meet, and of sorrow for meeting in England,
 both wish-
 ing it might have been in Holland, both
 bewailing the loss
 of the liberty we had left behind and were
 sensible we should
 never enjoy here ; and in that moment we
 found a begin-
 ning of the constraint we were to endure here
 after, for we
 durst not let ovr selves go on with those
 reflections, but
 dried up ovr tears lest it should be perceived
 when we went
 out. And here I was guilty of a great sin, I let

my self go
 on too much and the devil immediatly tooke
 his advantage,
 the world filled my mind and left but litle room
 for good
 thoughts. The next day after I came, we were
 proclaimed,
 and the goverment put wholly in the Princes
 hand. This
 pleased me extreamly, but many would not
 believe it, so
 that I was fain to force my self to more mirth
 then became
 me at that time, and was by many interpreted
 as ill nature,

¹ Own Time, i. 821.